

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06974 120912Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00  
DLOS-09 L-03 INT-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /072 W  
-----120916Z 048649 /10

P 120836Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7684  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6974

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, JA, UR  
SUBJECT: JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. TOKYO 6530; B. TOKYO 6898

SUMMARY: FONOFF SAID GOJ WAS ENCOURAGED THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT REJECTED JAPANESE PROPOSAL, PRESENTED NINE DAYS AGO, INTENDED TO FUZZ PROBLEM OF JURISDICTION OVER DISPUTED ISLANDS AND CLEAR WAY FOR 200-MILE-ERA BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT. SOVIET REPLY IS EXPECTED LATER TODAY, MAY 12; ITS TENOR, FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID, WILL DETERMINE WHETHER BREAKTHROUGH IS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY

1. FONOFF (DEPDIR AOKI OS 1ST EAST EUROPE DIVISION) SAID THIRD ROUND OF JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS HAD SO FAR PROCEEDED AT "SOVIET PACE," I.E., VERY SLOWLY. IN BRIEF FIRST MEETING AFTER ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW MAY 2, JAPANESE AGMIN SUZUKI PRESENTED JAPANESE PROPOSAL AIMED AT FUZZING QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP OF DISPUTED NORTHERN ISLANDS. JAPANESE IDEA (REF A) WAS TO INCLUDE IN AGREEMENT PARALLEL REFERENCE TO BOTH JAPANESE AND SOVIET EXTENSIONS OF MARITIME JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. SECOND MEETING MAY 7 ALSO  
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WAS VERY SHORT; SOVIET FISHMIN ISHKOV TOLD JAPANESE THAT USSR WAS STUDYING JAPANESE PROPOSAL AND ASKED SUZUKI TO AGAIN CONSIDER SOVIET PROPOSALS.

2. FIRST SUBSTANTIAL EXCHANGE OCCURRED IN THIRD ROUND OF TALKS MAY 10. IN TWO-HOUR MEETING, SOVIETS RESURRECTED DEMAND THAT THEY BE ABLE TO FISH FOR SARDINES

WITHIN JAPANESE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND SAID (CONTRADICTORILY) THAT THEY DESIRED TO LIMIT AGREEMENT PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION TO SUBJECT OF JAPANESE ACCESS TO SOVIET 200-MILE ZONE. QUESTION OF TERMS OF SOVIET ACCESS TO NEW JAPANESE 200-MILE ZONE MIGHT BE DEALT WITH LATER, ISHKOV SUGGESTED. (JAPANESE ZONE IS EXPECTED TO GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1.)

3. DESPITE "NOISY" SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST "IMPOSSIBLE" JAPANESE DEMANDS, AOKI SAID, GOJ WAS ENCOURAGED THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT REJECTED SUZUKI'S PROPOSAL OUT-OF-HAND. GOJ EXPECTED THAT AT NEXT MEETING, ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 12, SOVIETS WOULD REPLY TO SUZUKI PROPOSAL AND TENOR OF REPLY WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER BREAKTHROUGH POSSIBLE THIS ROUND. (JAPANESE MEDIA, QUOTING SUZUKI IN MOSCOW, HAVE REPORTED TALKS IN "FINAL, CRUCIAL" STAGE.)

4. GOJ ALSO CONSIDERED GOOD WELCOME SOVIETS HAD GIVEN SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF FOUR JAPANESE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, WHO ARRIVED IN MOSCOW MAY 10 TO LOBBY FOR EARLY FISHERIES AGREEMENT (REF B), A HOPEFUL SIGN. LABOR LEADERS MET ISHKOV MAY 11. AOKI NOTED THAT SOVIET TREATMENT OF LABOR GROUP CONTRASTED WITH EARLIER SOVIET REFUSAL TO ALLOW SIMILAR VISITS BY SEPARATE JSP AND JCP GROUPS.  
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## Message Attributes

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